

10 January 1973

The Honorable Melvin R. Laird  
The Secretary of Defense

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As I tried to indicate during our last working session and in my comments at yesterday's ceremony, I was deeply touched and greatly honored by the award you arranged and presented to me with such gracious flair.

The ceremony, which was handled deftly and impressively, was greatly appreciated by my whole family. Your kind remarks meant a great deal to me, to Ruth, and to all of our children. Last night even Douglas and Catherine (the two youngest) could talk of nothing but what Catherine termed "Daddy's program." Though it may have hardly been evident even to a parental eye, let alone a casual one, our two oldest sons proudly informed me that in honor of the occasion they had hitchhiked into McLean and gone voluntarily to a barber, an act virtually without precedent for our two adolescents. Christopher (our nine year old) is still bemused at the fact that the friendly man who was so nice to his father was the Secretary of Defense.

The concrete contributions for which you were so generous in your praise derived largely from the corporate endeavors of my Agency colleagues and associates. Mine happened to be the privilege of working directly with you in what evolved into a personal relationship and friendship that I have greatly enjoyed.

For this award, your hospitality at the Army-Navy game, and for all the things they symbolize, Ruth and I both thank you very much. We both wish you great happiness and success in all your subsequent endeavors, whatever they may be.

Sincerely yours,

George A. Carver, Jr.

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